

Water saving tips. The Intelligent Use of Water.™

Tips that will help keep your lawn, garden and wallet full of green.

1. Don't drown.

Avoid over-watering lawns and gardens. Much of the water will never be absorbed.

Some water is lost to runoff by being applied too rapidly, and some water evaporates from exposed, unmulched soil. But the greatest waste of water comes from applying too much, too often.

Instead of watering for 20 minutes straight, water four times for 5 minutes each, with a 15-minute break between each session. This will allow water to soak in, while minimizing runoff.

2. Watch the clock.

Try to water between 5 am and 10 am, when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool.

Under these conditions, leaf surfaces have a chance to dry out during the day, reducing the chance of fungal diseases and conserving water due to reduced evaporation. Make sure to use low angle nozzles in areas where wind is a factor.

Watering in the evening isn't a good idea because leaf surfaces can remain wet overnight --- an open invitation for fungal diseases. Midday watering is better for plants, but bad for your water bill because of water loss through evaporation.

3. Play the zone.

Divide your yard and landscaping into separate irrigation zones.

This way, grass can be watered separately and more frequently than groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

Both sprinkler and drip irrigation can be incorporated to achieve efficient use of water.

4. Raise the blade.

Trim grass at a higher mower setting.

Leaving the grass longer will shade roots from sunlight and encourage deeper roots.

5. Water only things that grow.

Avoid watering sidewalks and driveways.

Also, a properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water instead of a fog of fine mist, which is more susceptible to evaporation and wind drift.



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6. Consider dripping.

When it comes to watering individual trees, flowerbeds, potted containers, or other nongrassy areas, consider direct application of water to roots using low volume “drip” emitters.

By applying water slowly to soil, drip irrigation is by far the most efficient way to water.

Water applied by drip irrigation has little chance of waste through evaporation or runoff, and will prevent unwanted weeds from growing.

7. Check your system.

Once a month turn on your irrigation system, throw on your bathing suit and make sure everything is working properly.

A clogged head or a torn line can wreak havoc on your landscape and water bill.

Flush drip system emitter lines and filters that may be susceptible to clogs from small particles.

8. You can never have too ‘mulch’.

Mulch, a layer of non-living material covering the soil surface around plants, conserves water by significantly reducing moisture evaporation from the soil.

Mulch also reduces weed populations, prevents soil compaction and keeps soil temperatures more moderate.

9. Be rain smart.

Adjust your irrigation system as the seasons and weather change.

Or better yet, install a shut-off device that automatically detects rain. They are inexpensive and enable you to take advantage of nature’s precious gift without paying for it.



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